general discusses various aspects of water resources development and management in India and broadly covers the issues related to;

(i) adjusting to the needs of a changing India;

(ii) adjusting to scarcity and greater variability;

(iii) dealing with growing conflicts;

(iv) maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure;

(v) building infrastructure in under-served areas and for under served public puposes;

(vi) making the transition from development to management and development;

(vii) revitalizing the machinery of government to deal with the turbulent water future; and

(viii) charting a prioritized, sequenced, pragmatic path for making improvements.

Most of issues are duly addressed in the National Water Policy and appropriate actions are taken in light of the present policies of the Union and State Governments.

(c) The National Water Policy, 2002 clearly states that drought prone areas should be made less vulnerable to drought associated problems through soil-moisture conservation measures, water harvesting practices, minimization of evaporation losses, development of the ground water potential including recharging and the transfer of surface water from surplus areas where feasible and appropriate and pastures, forestry or other modes of development which are relatively less water demanding should be encouraged. The National Water Policy further states that in planning water resource development projects, the needs of drought prone areas should be given priority.

Project for inland water ways in Kerala

726. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala submitted a project for the inland water ways in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether necessary sanctions have been accorded to the project;

(d) the estimated cost of this project and the amount sought from the Central Government;

(e) whether funds have been released for the project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala submitted the project proposal "Revival of Veli-Kovalam Stretch of T.S. Canal" to the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways (Department of Shipping) which has been sanctioned on 31.3.2005 at a cost of Rs. 362.22 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 65.30 lakhs has also been released to the State Government under the project as advance grant-in-aid. Central share i.e. 90% of the project cost (Rs. 325.998 lakhs) is to be given to the State Government in the form of grant-in-aid for completion of the project and 10% of the project cost is to be managed by the State Government from their budget resources. Utilisation Certificate in respect of fund released under the project i.e. Rs. 65.30 lakhs has not been received from the State Government of Kerala. Further, subsequent release is based on the receipt of the Utilisation Certificate from the State Government.

Flood in Mumbai

†727. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that one of the reasons behind the devastating flood in Mumbai is closing down of the Mithi river;

(b) whether it is a fact that indiscriminate encroachment resulted in decline in its capacity to carry water to sea due to which hundreds of people lost their lives; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking timely action to prevent said encroachments?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.